Australian Laureate Fellowships

Three Australian mathematicians have recently been awarded Laureate Fellowships by the Australian Research Council.

The Australian Laureate Fellowships scheme[1] reflects the Commonwealth's commitment to support excellence in research by attracting world-class researchers and research leaders to key positions, and creating new rewards and incentives for the application of their talents in Australia. The scheme encourages proposals involving Australian and international researchers by providing eligible Australian Laureate Fellows with Project Funding in addition to a salary supplement and on-cost support.

Professor Peter Taylor, The University of Melbourne

New stochastic models for Science, Economics, Social Science and Engineering.

Professor Peter Taylor specialises in modelling randomly-varying systems. Stochastic, or random, phenomena abound in society. This project will combine advancement of the theory of stochastic models at a deep level with application to problems arising in science, economics, social science and engineering, and outreach to educate members of the public about random processes of significance in their lives.

Professor Hugh Possingham, ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions, University of Queensland

Restore or protect: could habitat restoration ever be a better investment than habitat protection for biodiversity and ecosystem service conservation?

Australia's multi-billion dollar national investment programs in nature conservation vacillate between two grand paradigms — prevention and cure. Professor Possingham's project will resolve this contest by developing the first rigorous quantitative framework for deciding whether protecting habitat is better than restoring habitat.

Professor Xu-Jia Wang, The Australian National University

Nonlinear partial differential equations and applications.

Professor Xu-Jia Wang is an expert in partial differential equations, calculus of variations, systems theory and control theory, and algebraic and differential geometry. This project aims to confirm and enhance Australia as a world leader in the very active and highly significant area of nonlinear partial differential equations. He will develop new methods and techniques to solve challenging problems of immense international interest and continue building expertise and training in the area.

[1] http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/laureate/laureate_default.htm